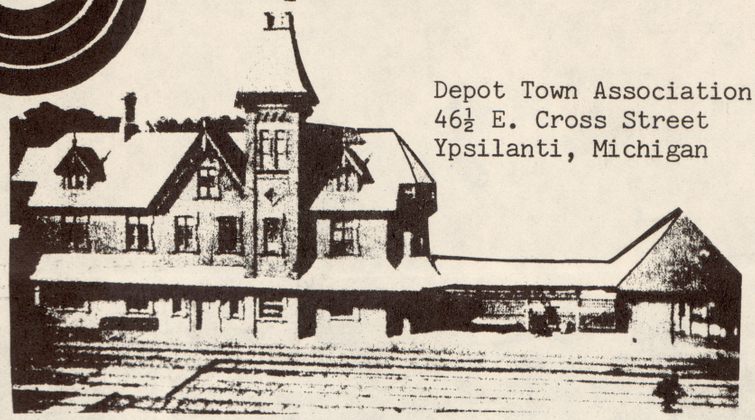
1979

depot town

Depot Town Association Inc.
46½ E. Cross Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan



THE MICHIGAN CENTRAL DEPOT AT YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN

1837 - First depot completed in preparation for the railway west from Detroit.

1838 - First train to Ypsilanti carried Governor Stevens T. Mason and other dignitaries aboard. Following a brass band arrival, banquet and speeches, on their return trip to Detroit their engine broke down and they were towed home by teams of horses.

1850's - Original wood structure replaced by three-story Victorian brick building. "East Ypsilanti" secedes from the village of Ypsilanti.

1858 - East and West Ypsilanti reunited.

1887 - MCRR spur track added, creates excellen factory sites.

1890's - Telegraphy taught at Cleary College to supply growing railroad industry.

1900 Michigan Central Gardens established and maintained by Station Agent Damon and landscape gardener John Laidlaw.

1910 - Top floor of depot destroyed by fire. Building remodeled to present low profile.

1913 - Nationally known landscape architects, the Olmstead Brothers, survey Ypsilanti and recommend moving depot south on River Street to provide more stock yard space nearer Michigan Avenue. No action.

1939 - Short tower and end of McPherson Block (next to Central Bar) destroyed by train wreck.

1960's & 70's - MCRR becomes Penn Central becomes New York Central becomes Conrail & Amtrak.

1978 - MCRR depot included as a jewel in the Ypsilanti Historic District and is protected by City Ordinance.

1979 - In addition to continuous Conrail freight traffic, three super Amtrak passenger services speed past the unused depot every day on their route between Detroit and Chicago; The Wolverine, the Saint Clair and the Twilight Limited. Tickets and board- are available in Ann Arbor.

However, more than fifty Ypsilanti passengers board the Michigan Executive each weekday morning which carries commuters from Jackson, Chelsea and Ann Arbor to Ypsilanti, Dearborn and Detroit. It returns to Ypsilanti each evening at 5:45pm. There is no interior depot facility at this time, which finds the commuters huddled near the dept awaiting the often tardy morning train.

SAVE THE DEPOT!

It's not too late. Join the Depot Town Association, the Ypsilanti Jay Cees, the Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers and local commuters in a campaign to save the district's deteriorating landmark.

"Save the Depot" T-shirts will help to raise funds for necessary reparis to the brick and roof. City DPW trucks will help out on the site.

Join us at the depot: Saturday, April 28 and Saturday, May 12.

D.T.A. QUESTIONNAIRE

Interested parties are encouraged to fill out and return the enclosed questionnaire about current issues in the district. Results will be made known at the March 15 D.T.A. meeting. Please return to Tom Dodd: 46½ E. Cross.

DEPOT TOWN DATES:

Thursday, 7:30pm
15 March
Depot Town Association monthly meeting at Gwen McCaulery's home: 217 N. River St.

Saturday 28 April and
SAturday 12 May
"SAVE THE DEPOT"
work bees at depot.

4th July Annual Parade
"FUN RUN" ends in
Depot Town.

24,25,26 August
YPSILANTI YESTERYEAR
HISTORICAL FESTIVAL

SAVE THE DEPOT

depot town

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